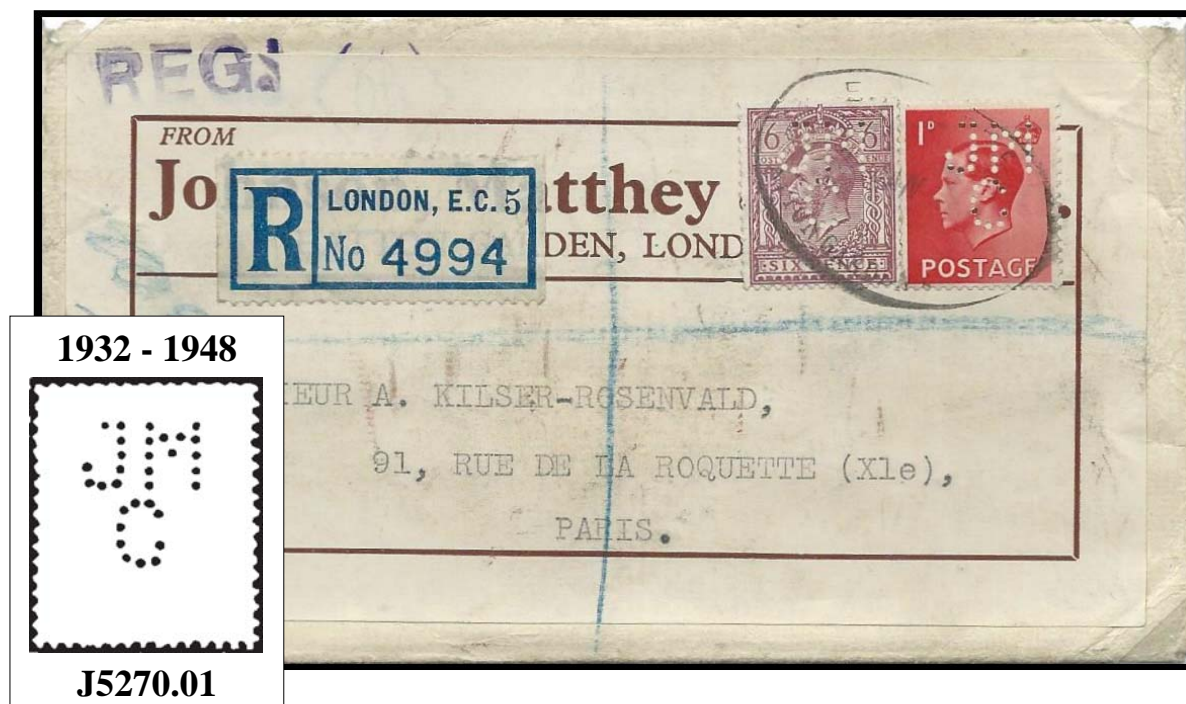


JOHNSON MATTHEY REGISTERED COVER

Melvyn Green

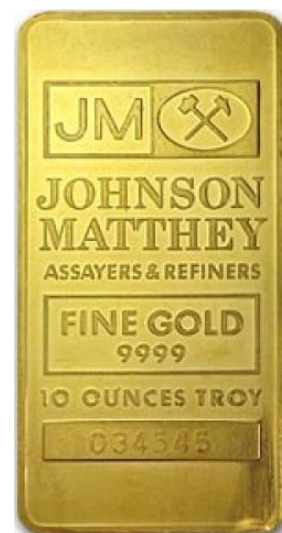


Illustrated above is a "Two Kings" registered cover with a George V 6d purple SG426 and Edward VIII 1d red SG458, both perfined JM/C - J5270.01 and the identity of Johnson Matthey & Co Ltd, Precious Metal Manufacturers & Dealers, 78/79 Hatton Garden, London EC1. The cover was sent January 1937 to Paris, France with oval Registered Hatton Garden cancels. The reverse of the cover has a wax seal and customs label detailing that the contents was 0.72 troy ounces of Fine Gold Grain valued at £5 for customs purposes.

Johnson Matthey traces its origins to 1802, when Percival Norton Johnson set up a business as a gold assayer in London. In 1851 George Matthey joined the business and its name was changed to Johnson & Matthey. The following year the firm was appointed Official Assayer & Refiner to the Bank of England. The company had branches in Birmingham and Sheffield to supply the jewellery, silverware and cutlery trade with raw materials and ancillary supplies, such as silver solder and flux, which it manufactured.

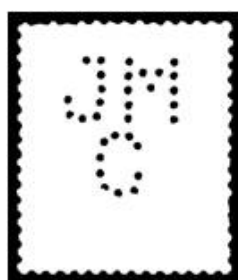
Apart from dealing in Precious Metals, from the 1960's onwards, Johnson Matthey diversified into Banking, Chemicals and Emission

Control Catalysts. In the early 1980s the bank expanded its activities outside the bullion business and started making high-risk loans. Bank assets more than doubled between 1980 and 1984, their loans became concentrated to a few borrowers and the size of the loans grew to exceed the level of the bank's capital. To prevent a wider banking crisis the Bank of England organized a rescue package purchasing the Bank for just £1. The rest of the company is still trading profitably today.



The company seems to have used at least six perfin dies over the years although looking at the gaps in the date range there are probably other dies still to be identified. As the company also had branches in Birmingham and Sheffield some of these dies may be found with provincial cancellations.

1932 - 1945



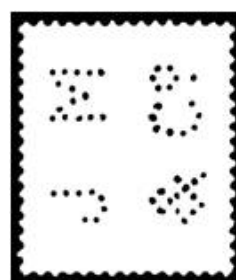
J5270.01

1939 - 1948



J5270.02

1880 - 1885



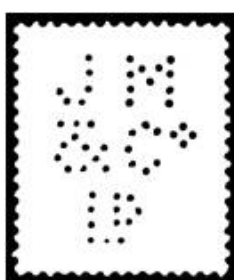
J5293.02

1915 - 1925



J5320.01

1925 - 1930



J5320.02

1918 - 1920



J5325.01

JOHNSON, MATTHEY & CO., LTD.,

MELTERS & ASSAYERS

— to the —

BANK OF ENGLAND.

**Metallurgical and Manufacturing
Chemists.**

Refiners of Gold, Silver & Platinum.



CABLES :

"Matthey, London."

(All Codes used).

Telephone 9740 City

(6 lines).